

1. A fusing station for fusing toner to an imaging receiving medium, said fusing station comprising:

a fuser roller configured as a heat pipe including a sealed hollow cavity containing a working fluid;

a pressure roller that forms a nip with the fuser roller through which the image receiving medium passes; and,

an electrical coil inductively coupled to the fuser roller to inductively heat the fuser roller upon energizing the electrical coil with electrical power.

2. The fusing station of claim 1, wherein the working fluid is a multiphase fluid including a liquid phase and gas phase in equilibrium with one another.

3. The fusing station of claim 1, wherein the heat pipe has an internal pressure load that substantially stiffens the same against deformation.

4. The fusing station of claim 1, wherein the working fluid is water, methanol, or a combination of water and methanol.

5. The fusing station of claim 1, wherein the fuser roller takes the form of a cylindrical tube with capped ends defining the cavity therein.

6. The fusing station of claim 1, wherein a wall of the fuser roller is formed from an electrically conductive material.

7. The fusing station of claim 1, wherein a wall of the fuser roller is formed from a magnetic material.

8. The fusing station of claim 1, wherein a wall of the fuser roller is formed from a nonconductive material having magnetic particles embedded therein.

9. The fusing station of claim 1, wherein the fuser roller is equipped with a pressure relief system to protect against over pressurization.

**10.** A method of fusing toner to an image receiving medium, said method comprising:

    inductively heating a heat pipe including a sealed hollow cavity containing a working fluid; and,

    applying heat from the heat pipe to a page of toner carrying image receiving medium.

**11.** The method of claim 10, further comprising:

    pressing the page against the heat pipe.

**12.** The method of claim 11, further comprising:

    rotating the heat pipe as the page is being pressed against it.

**13.** The method of claim 10, wherein the inductive heating is achieved via production of eddy currents, magnetic hysteresis or combination thereof in a wall of the heat pipe.

**14.** The method of claim 10, wherein the step of inductively heating includes electrically energizing an electrical coil inductively coupled to the heat pipe.

**15.** The method of claim 10, further comprising:

    stiffening the heat pipe against deformation.

**16.** The method of claim 15, wherein the step of stiffening includes internally pressurizing the heat pipe.

**17.** A fusing station for fusing toner to an image receiving medium, said fusing station comprising:

    distribution means for evenly distributing heat;

    means for inductively heating the distribution means; and,

    means for pressing a page of toner carrying image receiving medium to the heat distribution means.

**18.** The fusing station of claim **17**, wherein the heat distribution means is a heat pipe.

**19.** The fusing station of claim **18**, wherein the means for inductively heating is an electrical coil inductively coupled to the heat pipe.

**20.** The fusing station of claim **19**, wherein the heat pipe includes a sealed hollow cavity containing a working fluid.